

REMARKS

The attorneys of record have changed and a Revocation and Power of Attorney has previously been submitted. The Patent Office is kindly asked to update its records to reflect the new attorney docket number of 1084 1250.

In the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7-15 under 35 USC § 112, 2nd on grounds that, in claims 7 and 8, it was not understood what "oriented symmetrically" means. It is believed that the present amendments to the specification and claims 7 and 8 overcome this rejection.

As to the merits, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al (EP 0 505 574) and claims 7-15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Satran (WO 00/02693).

Independent Claim 1 now recites that the pocket base is "parallel to (the) axis of rotation" of the tool. This feature is not present in Arai.

Independent Claim 8 now recites, inter alia, that "each cutting insert has a second opposite pair of component side surfaces symmetrical with respect to (the) plane of rotation" of the tool. This feature is not taught in either Arai or Satran.

New independent claim 16 recites, inter alia, that each of the tool's cutting inserts has: "a second opposite pair of its component side surfaces symmetrical with respect to (the) plane of rotation" of the tool. This feature is not taught in either Arai or Satran.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended to introduce language that corresponds to the amended claims. It is submitted that the original text and figures support the changes and so new matter has been introduced into the application.

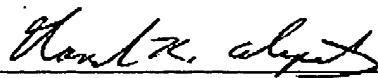
Application No. 10/002,180
Amendment filed March 22, 2004

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-16 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the prior art of record. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application may proceed to issue.

A Request for Continued Examination is being concurrently submitted.

Respectfully Submitted,

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